

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office action and the reference relied upon by the Examiner. Entry of the above amendments is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 3, 6 and 11 have been amended in order to more clearly define the inventions recited therein, without adding any new matter.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-4 and 6-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. It is alleged in the Office action that those claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

In response to the rejection of claims 1-4 and 6-19, applicant has amended claims 1, 3, 6 and 11 to more clearly describe the invention recited in those claims without adding any new matter. Thus, the applicant believes that claims 1-4 and 6-19 meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112 and that the rejections should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hirasaka (US 6,134,691).

Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitation from previous claim 2, which was determined to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Thus, claim 1, and claim 16 dependent thereon, are in immediate condition for allowance.

Independent claim 3 has been amended to incorporate the limitation from previous claim 4, which was determined to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Thus, claim 3, and claim 17 dependent thereon, are in immediate condition for allowance..

Accordingly, the inventions recited in the currently pending claims is clearly different from what is disclosed in Hirasaka, and are thus not anticipated by Hirasaka.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicant believes that each of claims 1, 3, and 6-19 is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If there is any matter that the Examiner would like to discuss, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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